

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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*** Public Notice ***

Workers at Elkhart County's Gemeinhardt Co. certified to receive federal aide

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that displaced employees at Elkhart County's Gemeinhardt Co. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Gemeinhardt Co.'s manufacturing facility, located in Elkhart, has experienced a shift in sales due to increased importation of flutes and piccolos throughout the last several of years, impacting approximately 150 employees.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The Teamsters Local #364 filed a petition on April 13, 2004, on behalf of the Gemeinhardt staff.

The USDOL investigation found that an increase in the importation of similar products contributed to the displacement of workers at the facility. Consequently, workers at Gemeinhardt qualified for benefits and were certified on May 25, 2004. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after April 12, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact the Elkhart WorkOne at 574/295-0105, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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